

KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 21, 2019

Directors Present: Greg Hendrickson, Rick Robinson, Pepe Miranda

Associate Directors:

KSWCD Staff: Mary Robblee

NRCS Staff: Jessica Schmelz;

Guests: Barbara Anderson, Tanya Rubenstine

MSCU* (R. Robinson/P. Miranda) Minutes for the January 17, 2019 meeting

1. Reports:

- A. **Treasury Report: MSCU* (R. Robinson/P. Miranda)**
- B. **NRCS Report:** NRCS has notified each office as to who will be funded. The total for all of the PIA would not cover all the applicants from the Kealahou Field Office. There is hope that more money will be made available as we go through the year. NRCS believes they will be able to fund, in total for this office, 5 crop, 3 pasture, 2 forest, 4 wildlife and 2 AMA contracts. If all of those are funded, it would be 1.9 million to Kona. There were over 60 applications for these funds. There is still the Spittlebug Initiative for ranchers to apply for.
- C. **NACD/HACD Report:** There have been requests for testimony to the state legislature in support of the Districts getting additional funding and part of the annual budget.
- D. **BIRC&D Report:** One of the concerns for BIRC&D is how to address farm theft. There is only one investigator for the whole island. Didi had to resign from BIRC&D board due to health issues.
- E. **Monthly & Conservation Assistant's Report:** The district sent a letter to the DOA regarding the Two-Line Spittle Bug. Discussion of the Cancino conservation plan. The preferred method is to flail the vegetation/trees. Chair asks what is the extent of native forest? That is to be determined. Additional site visits to be performed to train the owner what the Ohia and lama trees as to what they look like and to ensure the preservation of the cultural resources.
- F. **New Cooperators:**
 - a. TMK: 7-9-001:024, a 91 acre parcel, the owner is working at reforesting the land.
 - b. TMK: 7-6-005:036, a 1/2 acre parcel, the owner wants to learn more about our water courses and how to stabilize them.

2. Subdivision Reviews: None

3. **Old Business:** Long range work plan includes an RCPP application. Robblee drafted a topic-based outline for a long range work plan. General discussion tabled until Director Knowles attends the meeting.

4. **New Business:** Tanya Rubenstein, DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). Discussion around (Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) application and the potential local landowners who could participate. J. Schmelz notes the opportunities that could be available through an impaired water program offered by NRCS, the National Water Quality Initiative. DOFAW provides technical assistance has a lot of work going on in the upland watershed areas and the districts work with the farmers who may be at a little lower elevation, generally. DOFAW big supporter of RCPP. The Chairperson, G. Hendrickson, will be completing the RCPP application, anticipates the application period to begin with the next few weeks. The starting point for the application is the watershed map that is part of the state's watershed plan. Ms. Rubenstein makes the offer to provide

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any assistance she can. It is hoped this become s a model for strategic thinking by the other SWCDs in the state. There is a need for a forest tax credit, like there is a credit for agricultural land.


Secretary

3/21/19
Date

*MSCU – Moved, Seconded, Carried Unanimously